

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6917

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFO, GE, UR

SUBJ: EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE: BERLIN MEETING

REF: A. BERLIN 6748; B. BERLIN 6849; C. BERLIN 6740

1. DECEMBER 17 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND GIVES PROMINENT FRONT
PAGE COVERAGE TO THE RECONVENING OF AN ECPC DRAFTING
GROUP IN EAST BERLIN ON DECEMBER 16 FOR THE PURPOSE OF
FURTHER REVISION OF THE DRAFT DOCUMENT FOR THE ECPC.

2. WHEREAS ALL 28 PARTICIPATING PARTIES WERE REPRESENTED
IN THE DRAFTING "COMMITTEE" THAT MET IN BERLIN IN
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MID-NOVEMBER, 22 COUNTRIES ARE LISTED IN TODAY'S
NEUS DEUTSCHLAND AS HAVING SENT PARTY REPRESENTATIVES

TO THE DRAFTING "GROUP". COUNTRIES NOT REPRESENTED THIS TIME ARE GREAT BRITIAN, IRELAND, NORWAY, SAN MARINO, SWITZERLAND AND TURKEY. THERE IS NO FURTHER PRESS COMMENT ABOUT THE MEETING NOW IN PROGRESS.

3. WE ARE STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT THE EAST GERMAN PRESS HAS AGAIN FEATURED PROMINENTLY THE WORK OF DRAFTING BODIES OF THE ECPC (REF A). EXCEPT FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING, THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE PRACTICE IN THE PAST, WHEN MEETINGS OF VARIOUS DRAFTING BODIES, IF THEY WERE MENTIONED AT ALL IN THE PRESS, WERE BURIED IN A FEW LINES IN THE INSIDE PAGES. THE LISTING OF PARTICIPATING BODIES IN THE NOVEMBER 17-19 SESSION WAS NOT ONLY BY PARTY BUT ALSO BY NAME OF THE PARTY REPRESENTATIVE; THE PRESS LISTING FOR THE CURRENT DRAFTING GROUP IS BY PARTY ONLY, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE PRESENT MEETING IS MADE UP OF LOWER LEVEL FUNCTIONARIES.

4. THIS PUBLICITY COULD BE A SIGNAL THAT THE SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS ONCE AGAIN HOPE FOR AN EARLY CONVENING OF THE ECPC. A ROMANIAN EMBASSY SOURCE IN EAST BERLIN HAS COMMENTED THAT HIS DELEGATION HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE RELAXED, UNHURRIED ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIETS. IN NOVEMBER, WHICH CONTRASTED WITH THEIR EARLIER IMPATIENCE WITH ECPC DELAYS. THE ROMANIANS SOURCE SAID THAT MOST RECENT INDICATIONS, ARE THAT THE SOVIETS WERE ONCE AGAIN INTERESTED IN HAVING A CONFERENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS STILL NOT LIKELY THAT THE CONFERENCE COULD BE CONVENED BY FEBRUARY, BUT THE POSSIBILITY SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT.

5. WE NOTE THAT THE WEST GERMAN FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE THE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER ECPC DRAFT PROPOSALS. THESE DOCUMENTS (IF GENUINE) SHOW CONSIDERABLE GIVE IN THE SOVIET POSITION IN KEY AREAS FROM OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER. WHEREAS THE OCTOBER DRAFT CONTAINS A BINDING "PROGRAM OF ACTION", THE NOVEMBER DRAFT REFERS ONLY TO "CONCRETE PROPOSALS" AND MENTIONS VAGUELY EXPRESSED INTENTIONS TO "UNDERTAKE COORDINATED ACTION." THE PHRASE "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM,"
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FAMILIAR FROM EARLIER SOVIET DEFENSES OF THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE, BECOMES "FRIENDLY COOPERATION" AND "INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY" IN THE NEW DRAFT. AS TO RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IN EUROPE, PHRASEOLOGY IN THE FIRST DRAFT PRAISING THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS OF SOME WEST EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES IS CHANGED IN THE SECOND DRAFT TO RECOGNITION THAT THE PARTICIPANTS "VALUE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN SOME COUNTRIES IN COOPERATION BETWEEN COMMUNIST PARTIES AND SOCIALIST

AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES." IN CONTRAST TO THESE APPARENT SOVIET CONCESSIONS, HOWEVER, THE SECOND DRAFT CONTAINS REFERENCES TO "ANTI-SOVIETISM." FURTHER, IT INTRODUCES AN ENTIRELY NEW PARAGRAPH TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND SHOW THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH PCP, AND THAT THEY FAVOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO ITS 1967 BOUNDARIES AS WELL AS THE "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS, SUPPORT AN END TO FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, CALL FOR STRICT APPLICATION OF THE UN RESOLUTION AGAINST "RACIST REGIMES", AND SUPPORT A "NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER."GROVE

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